

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-6 and 9-31 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9-29, and 31 have been allowed.

Claims 2, 4 and 30 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over a paper issued to Carl Barnhart *et al.*, entitled, "OPMISR: The Foundation for Compressed ATPG Vectors" (hereinafter Barnhart).

On December 3, 2001, Applicants filed a certified copy of Japanese priority application nos. 2000-372231 (filed December 7, 2000) and 2001-205179 (July 5, 2001). Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(a)(4), Applicants respectfully submit herewith a partial English translation of said Japanese patent application no. 2000-372231, including a statement indicating that the translation is a true and faithful translation, thereby perfecting priority to said Japanese patent application.

As the date of the Barnhart publication is between October 30, 2001 and November 1 2001, which is after the date of the Japanese patent application no. 2000-372231, to which the subject application claims priority, the Barnhart reference is not prior art to the subject application.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of the claims.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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